

Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

courage is contagious

Viewing cable 09NICOSIA98, M/V MONCHEGORSK: CYPRUS INSISTS ON UN COVER

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09NICOSIA98**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09NICOSIA98	2009-02-03 15:43	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN	Embassy Nicosia

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.tanea.gr>

VZCZCXRO1851
OO RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHNC #0098 0341543
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 031543Z FEB 09
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9601
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 0289
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 6465
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 2134
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1342
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHEFNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 000098

SIPDIS
NOFORN

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR, NEA, IO, ISN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/02/2019

TAGS: [PARM](#) [MNUC](#) [PREL](#) [PGOR](#) [SY](#) [IR](#) [CY](#)

SUBJECT: M/V MONCHEGORSK: CYPRUS INSISTS ON UN COVER

REF: NICOSIA 96 AND OTHERS

Classified By: Ambassador Frank C. Urbancic, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (U) Status of Ship: No changes since last report.

¶2. (C) Diplomatic Activity: Ambassador on February 2 spoke with RoC Diplomatic Coordinator Leonidas Pantelides regarding latest developments on Monchegorsk. Contradicting recent messages from the Foreign Ministry regarding the applicability of UNSCR 1747, Pantelides claimed there was no doubt the Monchegorsk was carrying proscribed materiel. That said, Cyprus needed "a blue flag (United Nations) solution," or otherwise would prefer to send the cargo back to source country Iran. He dismissed any option that entailed transferring the shipment to a third party without UN cover, such as the German offer reported on February 2 (Reftel). Giving the cargo to Germany would be acceptable, he clarified, but only with authorization from the UN. Pantelides expected the RoC to report its inspection findings to the UNSC Iran Sanctions Committee (ISC) before week's end, perhaps as early as February 4. The message would include not only the results of the government's inspection, but also questions posed to the ISC regarding disposition of the Monchegorsk cargo. Pantelides noted the RoC had consulted with the Russians and Chinese in New York and had been assured that there would be no difficulties. Ambassador emphasized that the U.S. believed Cyprus should report a violation to the Council without open-ended questions; returning the cargo to Iran was a bad option, he added.

¶3. (C) Ambassador also discussed next steps with resident UK High Commissioner Peter Millett. Millett hours earlier had engaged RoC Foreign Minister Markos Kyprianou to urge the Cypriots to report only their inspection findings to the ISC and specifically not seek guidance for proceeding. However, in the face of what appeared to be a near-imminent Cypriot decision not to report and perhaps let the boat leave, Millett's message apparently softened, focusing instead on the necessity of referring the matter to New York regardless of wording. Kyprianou claimed that "these people" -- pointing at President Demetris Christofias and fellow AKEL party glitterati -- had allowed the Monchegorsk to become an ideological, David versus Goliath affair, with "little Cyprus" naturally cozying up to Syria's David. Such an interpretation did not bode well for a solution acceptable to the U.S., Britain, and others, the Minister concluded.

¶4. (C) As to immediate next steps, Millett raised the idea of coordinated telephone calls from P-3-plus-one capitals to Christofias, at the PolDir level.
Urbancic